



The Olive Branch

March 22, 2023

Sunday Readings

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

*In the
presence of God.
Being the
presence of God.*

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

In the readings chosen for this week, I am drawn to what seems to me an overarching theme: waiting. In the arch of the church year, we often associate a focus on waiting with Advent. But we see it this week, too.

The Spirit leads Ezekiel is led to a valley of bones and instructs him to prophesy to the bones, and God restores their flesh and breathes new life into them. Often our emphasis on this story ends here. But in the remaining verses, we hear God promise to enliven the people of Israel, putting God's very Spirit into them so they might live. Ezekiel sees the miraculous and hears the promise - but then must wait for its fulfillment.

The Psalmist cries out to God from the depths - depths of what we do not know - grief, sadness, hunger, depression, guilt - pleading with God to hear their cries. They then shift to a proclamation of confidence in God's own forgiveness. And then - here it is - the Psalmist waits - more than those who watch for the morning - for the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem God's own people out of God's great love.

continued on page 2

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

And John tells the story of two sisters waiting by the side of a seriously ill brother, waiting for Jesus to arrive, with full confidence that if Jesus were there he would be able to offer healing. But Lazarus dies and Mary and Martha are still left waiting - for another four days. And then Jesus arrives. Martha's response to Jesus perhaps mirrors our own responses, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day," but previously had stated what many of us have likely said to God, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." And Jesus acts - not in the way Mary or Martha or others or us may have expected, but Jesus acts - bringing Lazarus back to life.

Coincidental with this overarching theme of waiting is a reminder of the here-now-but-not-yet nature of the reign of God. We can be fully assured of God's love and forgiveness and the inevitability of that reign being fully established. That reign, as John describes in Revelation, is one where God dwells with us; where God wipes every tear from our eyes; where death will be no more; where mourning and crying and pain will be no more. But we wait for that fulfillment. We still struggle with sadness, depression, hunger, houselessness, anger, violence, sickness, death. But we wait. We wait in confidence of God's love, watching for the fulfillment of God's promise like those who await the morning.

And we wait - not alone - but we wait together - in the very presence of God.

- Jim Bargmann

Farewell and Godspeed

We'll bid Farewell and Godspeed to Pr. Hoffman **this Sunday, March 26.**

Following the second liturgy that day, the Vestry will host a reception and an opportunity for everyone to thank Paul for his time among us. Please plan to attend.

Calendar

Wednesday, March 22

9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*
1:00 pm Soup Luncheon
5:30 pm Children's & Youth Choirs Supper
6:00 pm Children's & Youth Choirs rehearsals
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, March 23

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, March 24

7:00 pm Recovery group

Sunday, March 26 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Education for all ages
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
Noon Farewell Reception for Pr. Hoffman
12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation

Monday, March 27

5:30 pm Family Music Time (online) for kids aged birth-kindergarten+caregiver

Tuesday, March 28

Noon Bible Study

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent

Holy Eucharist at Noon,
followed by Soup Luncheon

Vespers at 7:00 pm,
preceded by Soup Supper at 6 pm

All are welcome.

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the **East Assembly Room**. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

Book Discussion

For its April 15 meeting, postponed one week because of Easter, the group will read *The Bohemian Flats*, by Mary Relindes Ellis. For the May 13 meeting they will read *Stoner*, by John Williams.

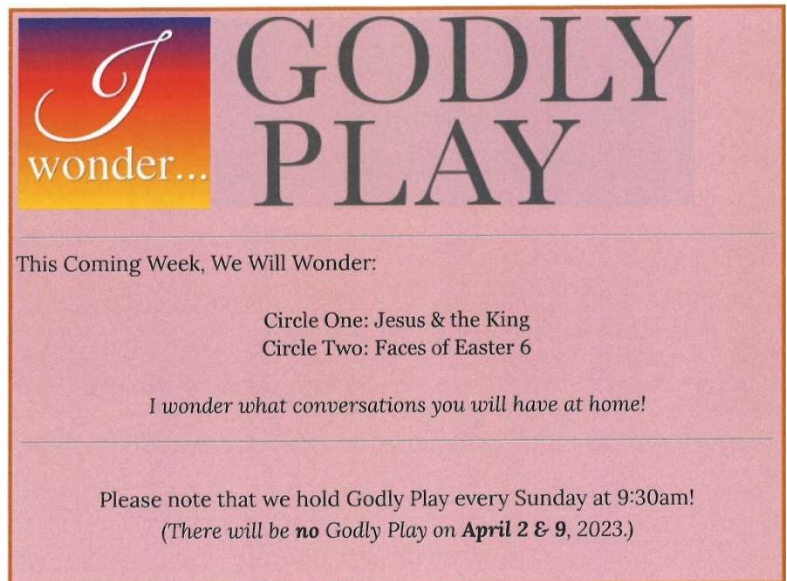
The Mount Olive book group has been meeting once a month for 20 years, usually on the second Saturday from 10am to noon. While the book selections are predominately novels, they are not always so. Lately the group has been using Zoom to provide remote access to the sessions. If you would like to participate in the group, you can either attend the monthly sessions which meet at the church or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

Upcoming Education Topics

March 26: "With Fresh Eyes," presented by Interim Pastor Paul E. Hoffman.

Woven around passages of Scripture, these reflections will be offered as a gift for us to take forward into the future of our ministry. *Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you...* (Romans 15:7)

April 2 and 9 – No Adult Forum (or Godly Play) on Palm Sunday or Easter.



Adult Forum Follow-up: Bach Resources

At his Adult Forum on J. S. Bach last Sunday, Art Halbardier mentioned resources on J.S. Bach at Sunday's adult forum. They are listed below.

- Christoph Wolff, *Johann Sebastian Bach, The Learned Musician*. New York, W.W. Norton & Company, 2000.
- Peter Williams, *J.S. Bach: A life in Music*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Joseph Sittler, *Johann Sebastian Bach: An Essay in Discovery*, The Cresset, Vol. VI, No. 6, (April, 1943), pp. 16-23.
- Link to view Bach's working manuscript of *Messe in h-moll*.
<https://vmirror.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/3/30/IMSLP437011-PMLP04197-Partitur.pdf>
- James Gaines, *Evening in the Palace of Reason: Bach Meets Frederick the Great in the Age of Enlightenment*. London, Fourth Estate (An imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, Ltd.), 2005

Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter at Mount Olive

Monday - Wednesday, April 3-5: Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week
+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave,
near the columbarium

Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday
+ Holy Eucharist, Noon
+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 7: Good Friday
+ Stations of the Cross, Noon
+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday, April 8: Holy Saturday
+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception

Sunday, April 9: The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day
+ ONE Festival Holy Eucharist at 10 am (note schedule!)
Carry-in Brunch at 9:00 am - before the liturgy
(bring a dish to share!)

Paschal Garden

Donations are currently being received for this year's Easter Paschal Garden. If you would like to donate to flowers for Easter, please be sure your contribution is clearly designated for this purpose. Gifts can be given any time between now and Easter. Contributors may take a flower home following the Easter Sunday liturgy.

Sign Up, Sign Up for Coffee!

The Sunday morning coffee sign up is pretty empty! Please consider providing treats for coffee hour. Remember that Jose makes the coffee and does the dishes. Mentoring is available if you need it. Nothing fancy is needed. (Who doesn't love Oreos?)

If you can help, please sign up on the chart in the East Assembly Room. There are lots of available slots!

Now is the Moment

This is a message from one of our Afghan resettlement friends: "We are facing a critical moment, friend. 78,000 Afghan refugees living in the United States are in imminent danger of losing their legal status.

Thankfully, a solution exists. **The Afghan Adjustment Act** will provide a legal pathway for Afghan refugees to apply for green cards and gain permanent legal status here.

But here's the problem: Despite bipartisan support and momentum, Congress **FAILED** to pass this critically needed legislation last year. **And now time is running out on 78,000 people.** For some Afghan refugees, the temporary parole they were granted will start expiring as early as July. **That's why we're sending a petition to Congress right now to demand that they prioritize passing the Afghan Adjustment Act.**

[**This legislation has bipartisan support. But without us pushing, it could fall by the wayside. So please, add your name to this petition and demand Congress prioritize passing the Afghan Adjustment Act. 78,000 people are counting on you.**](#)

But unless enough of us speak out right now, Congress is going to dilly-dally while 78,000 lives hang in limbo. That's why it is so important to let them know that we haven't and won't forget about this issue."

[**So please, take 30 seconds and add your name to this petition. Tell Congress to prioritize passing the Afghan Adjustment Act.**](#)

Upcoming Events in our life together

- Carry-in brunch on Easter morning at 9 a.m. Bring your favorite brunch dish to share!
- On Sunday, April 23, at 2:30 p.m., there will be a docent-led tour of MIA's indigenous art. Cost is \$10/person, with scholarships available. Registration info coming soon.
- On Sunday, May 22, there will be a walking tour of Dakota Sacred Sites, funded by the Mount Olive Foundation.

March Neighborhood Ministries Partners of the Month: *Sabathani Community Center and Community Emergency Service*

In March, we highlight two of our partners that work on issues of food insecurity in our south Minneapolis community as a part of the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, a state-wide initiative intended to bring together “organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals” to raise awareness about the issue of food insecurity and support for local food programs.

“**Sabathani Community Center** is one of Minnesota’s oldest African American-founded nonprofits... [and] helps equip approximately 32,000 South Minneapolis residents annually” though their food shelf, clothes closet, seniors programs, workforce initiatives, support for school-age children, and more.

Community Emergency Service or CES, works to alleviate hunger and food insecurity through an on-site food shelf, food delivery programs, a partnership with Meals on Wheels, and it’s unique Ani-Meals program, providing food for pets and service animals.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partner this month, we also volunteer in support of their work. On top of those financial and labor contributions, we encourage any member who wishes to donate over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your offering envelopes or our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner for the month in which the contribution is received.

In addition, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items in the cart located in the West Assembly to be divided between our two food shelf partners. However, for those who are able, we strongly encourage monetary donations. Because our food shelf partners have access discounts and bulk purchase opportunities not available to regular consumers, monetary donations to our partners allows them to purchase much more food for the same cost.

For more information about the work of the Sabathani Community Center, please visit their website at sabathani.org. For more information about CES, please visit cesmn.org.

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Brad Holt; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Steve Lenius; Carla Manuel; Jude Mostek; Rhoda Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Russ Pearson; Robin Rayfield; Pariann Schenk; Rodney Schrank; Brenda Turner, James Wilkes; Rhonda Fish, friend of Andrew Andersen; Randy Stiegmann and Gerry Coleman, stepfather and friend of Jim Bargmann; Cassandra Thompson, friend of Al Bostelmann; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Mattisyn, friend of Kat Campbell Johnson; Marilyn Volker, sister of Allen Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Jon Jrocki, friend of David Engen; Joyce Schoenfield, sister of Marilyn Gebauer; Yvonne McCool, sister of Victor Gebauer; Joe & Brenda Patnaude, friends of Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Gina, aunt of Vicar Mollie Hamre; Quentin Hamilton, friend of Judy Hinck; Ethan Holtmeier, grandson of Patsy & John Holtmeier; Steve Horsfield, friend of Mount Olive; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; the Klapushynski family (of Ukraine), friends of Jim & Judy Johnson; Michael Uthe and Marcy Reaves, friends of Mary Rose Kaliher; Ann Richards, friend of Carol Martinson; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Brad Krider, friend of Rachel Meuret; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Sandy Nelson, daughter of Rhoda Nelson and sister of Sherry Nelson; Stan & Darlene Nelson, parents of Brad Nelson; Terri Harnell, friend of Lisa Nordeen & Christine Hazel; Tim Gaudineer, relative of George & Marlys Oelfke; Jennie Kobylinski, niece of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Jolie Melana Meshbesh, friend of Robin Rayfield; John Seboldt, brother of Gayle & Ken Schulz; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Greta Sterner, daughter of Martha Sterner and sister of Kate; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Keith Van Ee, father of Tricia Van Ee Molbert; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez;

Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; Pat Faunce, friend of Eric Zander; Barbara C. Johnson and Louis Krohnfeldt, friends of Mount Olive.

In hospice care: Leila Froehlich.

At the death of: Carolyn Mowery; Cat Robinette, friend of Emily Hellerich.

About our prayer list ...

If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

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On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Interim Pastor – *Paul E. Hoffman*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Mollie Hamre*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

In This Issue

- **Accent on Worship – Jim Bargmann**
- **Farewell Reception for Pr. Hoffman, This Sunday, March 26**
- **Holy Week Worship Schedule**
- **Donations for Easter Paschal Garden Now Being Received**
- **Afghan Adjustment Act: Sign the Petition NOW!**